Please amend Claims 10, 13 and 14 by incorporating the subject matter of allowable Claim 12 therein, as follows:

10. (Amended) An image processing method which is applied to a server capable of being connected to an image forming unit having a calibration function to obtain correction data by forming and measuring a patch and plural clients through a network, said method comprising:

an obtaining step, of obtaining the correction data automatically obtained by the calibration function of the image forming unit by performing communication with the image forming unit, wherein said correction data of the image forming unit is asynchronous with respect to a time at which the printing job is received from the client;

a receiving step, of receiving a printing job from the client;

a correcting step, of performing a correction process on image data included in the printing job, by using the correction data obtained by the calibration function of the image forming unit; and

an outputting step, of outputting the image data corrected in said correcting step to the image forming unit.

13. (Amended) A storage medium which computer-readably stores a program to achieve an image processing method which is applied to a server capable of being connected to an image forming unit having a calibration function to obtain correction

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data by forming and measuring a patch and plural clients through a network, said method comprising:

an obtaining step, of obtaining the correction data automatically obtained by the calibration function of the image forming unit by performing communication with the image forming unit, wherein said correction data of the image forming unit is asynchronous with respect to a time at which the printing job is received from the client;

a receiving step, of receiving a printing job from the client;

a correcting step, of performing a correction process on image data included in the printing job, by using the correction data obtained by the calibration function of the image forming unit; and

an outputting step, of outputting the image data corrected in said correcting step to the image forming unit.

14. (Amended) A computer-readable program to achieve an image processing method which is applied to a server capable of being connected to an image forming unit having a calibration function to obtain correction data by forming and measuring a patch tend plural clients through a network, said program comprising:

an obtaining module that obtains the correction data automatically obtained by the calibration function of the image forming unit by performing communication with the image forming unit, wherein said correction data of the image forming unit is asynchronous with respect to a time at which the printing job is received from the client;

a receiving module that receives a printing job from the client;

a correcting module that performs a correction process on image data included in the printing job, by using the correction data obtained by the calibration function of the image forming unit; and

an outputting module that outputs the image data corrected by said correcting module to the image forming unit.

Please add Claims 15 to 23, as follows:

15. (New) A method according to Claim 10, wherein, in said obtaining step, the correction data is obtained from the image forming unit for each predetermined time.

16. (New) A method according to Claim 10, wherein the image forming unit automatically executes the calibration function according to a condition of state parameters.

17. (New) A method according to Claim 10, further comprising the step of judging whether or not the correction data should be updated, by comparing additional information of the latest correction data obtained by communicating with the image forming unit with additional information of the correction data already stored.

18. (New) A storage medium according to Claim 13, wherein in said obtaining step, the correction data is obtained from the image forming unit for each predetermined time.

19. (New) A storage medium according to Claim 13, wherein the image forming unit automatically executes the calibration function according to a condition of state parameters.

20. (New) A storage medium according to Claim 13, further comprising the step of judging whether or not the correction data should be updated, by comparing additional information of the latest correction data obtained by communicating with the image forming unit with additional information of the correction data already stored.

21. (New) A computer-readable program according to Claim 14, wherein, in said obtaining step, the correction data is obtained from the image forming unit for each predetermined time.

22. (New) A computer-readable program according to Claim 14, wherein the image forming unit automatically executes the calibration function according to a condition of state parameters.

23. (New) A computer-readable program according to Claim 14, wherein said program further comprises the step of judging whether or not the correction data should be updated, by comparing additional information of the latest correction data obtained by communicating with the image forming unit with additional information of the correction data already stored.

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated February 28, 2002 (Paper No. 10). Claims 10 and 13 to 21 are in the application, of which Claims 10, 13 and 14 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for her indication that Claim 12 contains allowable subject matter, and has merely been objected to. In keeping with this indication, independent Claims 10, 13 and 14 have been amended to incorporate the substance of allowable Claim 12, and they are all now believed to be in condition for allowance.

As for the rejection of Claims 1 to 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S. Patent 6,046,820 (Konishi), and the rejection of Claims 10, 11, 13 and to 14[1] under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent 6,226,097 (Kimura) in view of U.S. Patent 6,188,807 (Arakawa), the foregoing amendments actions have been taken without prejudice and

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[1] The Office Action actually states that Claims "10 to 14" were rejected. However, given the overall content of the Office Action, it is clear that a rejection of claims 10, 11, 13 and 14 only was intended.